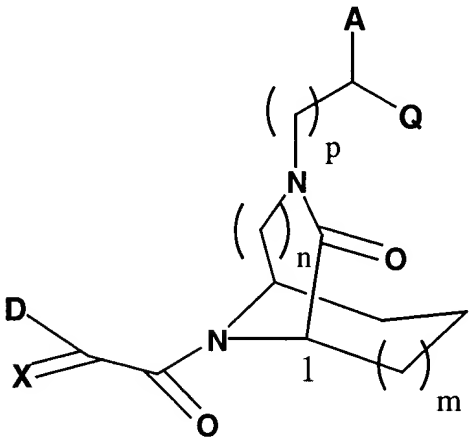
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula (I)



(I)

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein:

X is ~~O or~~ F_2;

n is 1;

m is 1;

p is 0 or 1;

wherein the stereochemistry at carbon position 1 is R or S;

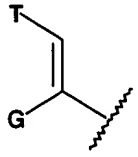
D is (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl, (C_5-C_7)-cycloalkyl or (C_5-C_7)-cycloalkenyl substituted with (C_1-C_4)-straight or branched alkyl or (C_2-C_4)-straight or branched alkenyl, O-(C_1-C_4)-straight or branched alkyl, O-(C_2-C_4)-straight or branched alkenyl, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, ((C_1-C_4)-alkyl or (C_2-C_4)-alkenyl)-Ar or Ar;

Ar is a carbocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisiting of phenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, indenyl, azulenyl, fluorenyl, and anthracenyl; or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, indolizinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, 3H-indolyl, indolinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, 1H-indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, purinyl, 4H-quinolizinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, 1,8-naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl, carbazolyl, acridinyl, phenazinyl, phenothiazinyl, and phenoxazinyl;

Ar may contain one to three substituents which are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, hydroxymethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl, O-((C_1-C_4)-straight or branched alkyl), O-benzyl, O-phenyl, 1,2-methylenedioxy, amino, carboxyl, N-((C_1-C_5)-straight or branched alkyl or (C_2-C_5)-straight or branched alkenyl) carboxamides, N,N-di-((C_1-C_5)-straight or branched alkyl or (C_2-C_5)-straight or branched alkenyl) carboxamides, N-morpholinecarboxamide, N-benzylcarboxamide, N-thiomorpholinocarboxamide, N-picolinoylcarboxamide, O-W, CH_2-(CH_2)$_q$-W, O-(CH_2)$_q$-W, (CH_2)$_q$-O-W, and CH=CH-W;

W is 4-methoxyphenyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, pyrazyl, quinolyl, 3,5-dimethylisoxazoyl, isoxazoyl, 2-methylthiazoyl, thiazoyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, or pyrimidyl; q is 0-2;

Q and A are independently hydrogen, Ar, (C_1-C_{10})-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_{10})-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl, (C_5-C_7)-cycloalkyl substituted (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl, (C_5-C_7)-cycloalkenyl substituted (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl, or Ar-substituted (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl wherein, in each case, any one of the CH_2 groups of said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl chains may be optionally replaced by a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of O, S, SO, SO_2, N, and NR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_4)-straight or branched alkyl, (C_2-C_4)-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl, and (C_1-C_4)-bridging alkyl wherein a bridge is formed between the nitrogen and a carbon atom of said heteroatom-containing chain to form a ring, and wherein said ring is optionally fused to an Ar group; or



;

G is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched alkyl or (C_2-C_6)-straight or branched alkenyl or alkynyl; and

T is Ar or substituted 5-7 membered cycloalkyl with substituents at positions 3 and 4 which are independently selected from the group consisting of oxo, hydrogen, hydroxyl, O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or O-(C_2-C_4)-alkenyl.

2. (Currently amended) A compound of claim 1 wherein:

the stereochemistry at carbon 1 is S;

m is 1;

n is 1;

p is 1;

X is ~~O or~~ F_2;

D is 3, 4, 5-trimethoxyphenyl or t-pentyl;

Q and A are independently hydrogen; 2, 3, or 4-pyridyl; or phenyl-substituted (C_1-C_6)-straight or branched chain alkyl, wherein phenyl is optionally substituted with one to three substituants independently selected from (C_1-C_6) alkyl, O-(C_1-C_6) alkyl, carboxyl and trifluoromethyl, wherein said alkyl is straight or branched.

3. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein:

the stereochemistry at carbon 1 is S;

X is O;

m is 1;

n is 1;

p is 1;

A is 3-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylethyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propyl or 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl; and

Q is 3-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylethyl, 3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl or 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl.

4. (Original) A compound of claim 1 wherein:

the stereochemistry at carbon 1 is S;

X is O;

m is 1;

n is 1;

p is 0;

A is hydrogen; and

Q is 2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl, 2-phenylethyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 4-phenylbutyl or 2-(3-pyridyloxy)ethyl.

5. (Withdrawn) A compound of claim 1 wherein:

the stereochemistry at carbon 1 is S;

X is O;

m is 1;

n is 0;

p is 1;

A is 3-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylethyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propyl or 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl; and

Q is 3-phenylpropyl, 2-phenylethyl, 3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl or 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl.

6. (Withdrawn) A compound of claim 1 wherein:

the stereochemistry at carbon 1 is S;

X is O;

m is 1;

n is 0;

p is 0;

A is hydrogen; and

Q is 2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl, 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl, 2-phenylethyl, 3-phenylpropyl, 4-phenylbutyl or 2-(3-pyridyloxy)ethyl.

7. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises as an active ingredient an amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective for stimulating neurite growth in nerve cells, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A method for stimulating neurite growth in nerve cells comprising the step of contacting said nerve cells with a composition comprising a neurotrophic amount of a compound with affinity for an FK506 binding protein as claimed in any one of claims 1-4.

9. (Previously presented) A method for stimulating neurite growth in nerve cells comprising the step of contacting said nerve cells with a composition comprising a neurotrophic amount of a compound with affinity for FKBP12 as claimed in any one of claims 1-4.